

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 IO-13 /083 W
-----020096 250734Z /15

R 241600Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6181
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03435

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, EEC
SUBJECT: JENKINS TO VISIT BERLIN

SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS HAS BEEN
INVITED BY MAYOR STOBBE TO VISIT BERLIN IN MID-APRIL
WHERE HE MAY DELIVER A SPEECH ON EC DIRECT ELECTIONS. THE
BONN GROUP HAS AGREED THAT JENKINS' TREATMENT OF SUCH
A TOPIC COULD BE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE. THE FRG HAS
PROMISED TO INFORM THE BONN GROUP AFTER IT HAS LEARNED
MORE ABOUT JENKINS' PLANS. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE FEBRUARY 21 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRENCH
REP (RICHARD) ASKED ABOUT UNOFFICIAL REPORTS THAT
EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS INTENDED TO VISIT BERLIN
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IN THE SPRING. THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) RESPONDED
THAT THE FRG HAD BEEN INFORMED BY A MEMBER OF JENKINS'
CABINET THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS PLANNING TO VISIT BERLIN
ON APRIL 13-14 AT THE INVITATION OF MAYOR STOBBE.
PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT WERE BEING MADE BY THE
BERLIN BRANCH OFFICE (MR. FREISBERG) OF THE EC COMMISSION
PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE IN BONN.

2. RICHARD ASKED IF JENKINS' VISIT TO GREEN WEEK WAS THE ONLY ONE HE HAD PAID TO BERLIN SINCE HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE EC PRESIDENCY. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WAS CORRECT.

3. RICHARD ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT JENKINS' PURPOSE IN COMING TO BERLIN. VON BRAUNMUEHL REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT JENKINS MIGHT PRESENT AN ADDRESS ON EC DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE BERLIN "EC ELECTION COMMITTEE," ONE OF SEVERAL PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE EC INTERESTED IN PROMOTING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. BOTH THE COMMISSION AND JENKINS HIMSELF SEEMED INTERESTED IN THE SPEECH TO THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. THE SENAT SEEMED TO FAVOR INSTEAD A SPEECH ON AN ECONOMIC TOPIC BEFORE THE BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. NO FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN MADE ON WHAT HE WOULD DO IN BERLIN.

4. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY INOPPORTUNE FOR JENKINS TO SPEAK ABOUT DIRECT ELECTIONS IN BERLIN. HE ASKED FOR ALLIED VIEWS.

5. THE UK REP (EYERS) SAID HE CONSIDERED IT A VERY POOR IDEA. FOR POLITICAL REASONS, HE BELIEVED THAT, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, COMMOTION CONCERNING BERLIN SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BE AVOIDED. RICHARD AND THE U.S. REP ALSO EXPRESSED ON A PERSONAL BASIS THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF JENKINS AVOIDED THE SUBJECT OF EC DIRECT ELECTIONS WHILE IN BERLIN.

6. ALL REPS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JENKINS' VISIT. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THE FRG WOULD DO SO AND REPORT BACK TO THE BONN GROUP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, VISITS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN03435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780087-0802
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780219/aaaaapgc.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1d6dad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3492933
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JENKINS TO VISIT BERLIN SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS HAS BEEN INVITED BY MAYOR STOBBE TO VISIT BERLIN IN MID-APR
TAGS: PGOV, WB, BQG, EEC, (JENKINS, ROY)
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1d6dad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014